

What is claimed is:

1. A liftgate frame for a liftgate of a motor vehicle, said frame assembly comprising:
an upper frame member adapted to be pivotally secured to the motor vehicle; and
a generally U-shaped, integrally formed lower frame member fixedly secured to said upper frame member, said lower frame member including spaced apart, downwardly extending vertical segments and a horizontal segment extending between said vertical segments for supporting the liftgate as the liftgate opens and closes.
2. A liftgate frame as set forth in claim 1 including a reinforcement member fixedly secured to said upper frame member and to one of said vertical segments for reinforcing the attachment between said upper and lower frame members.
3. A liftgate frame as set forth in claim 2 wherein said lower frame member is formed by tubular hydroforming of a metal material.
4. A liftgate frame as set forth in claim 3 wherein said upper frame member includes an inner header panel pivotally hinged to the motor vehicle and an outer header panel fixedly secured to said inner header panel.